



Press Release: Chocolate Lover's Event

Downtown Smithfield's Chocolate Lover's Evening

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

Smithfield, Virginia

This year, the February SmARTs event (*Smithfield Monthly Arts Stroll*) taking place on Friday, February 12th from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m., will be the popular “**Chocolate Lover's Evening.**”

That evening, in celebration of Valentine's Day, each participating SmARTs Merchant will feature “Culinary Art”- an entry in the Chocolate Lovers contest. Attendees at this **FREE event** will stroll through the shops of downtown Smithfield, sample the chocolate entries and vote for their favorite “**People's Choice**” by buying a ballot for \$1.00. Vote as many times as you like because all monies collected will go directly to the **American Cancer Society's Isle Wight/Surry Relay for Life**. Special “thanks” to the “Queens for Life” Relay for Life Team for their assistance at the event this year!

This year **cash prizes** will be awarded to the winners. The 1st place winner in both the amateur and professional categories will win \$50, 2nd place winners; \$35, and 3rd place winners; \$25. Mary Griffith from Virginia's Finest Chocolates will be judging the entries for these cash prizes. The People's Choice winner will receive \$100! Additionally, each entrant will be given a \$10 gift card for participating in the contest.

To enter your own chocolate creation and win these fabulous prizes, simply download the application form from VisitSmithfieldIsleofWight.com, call (757) 357-5182 or stop by the Visitor Center at 319 Main Street in Smithfield to pick up your submission form. All entries must be turned in to Smithfield & Isle of Wight Tourism by **Monday, February 2nd**. Entrants will be paired with a merchant to display their dessert and “man” their display for maximum voting influence! Judging will take place in the cake, candy, cookie and dessert categories but *all Chocolate Lovers* will win just by eating their just desserts throughout the Historic District!

For more information and a complete list of entry policies, contact Terry Thompson, Smithfield and Isle of Wight Tourism Special Events Coordinator, at (757) 357-2214 or via email at tthompson@iwus.net or go to VisitSmithfieldIsleofWight.com/ChocolateLovers.html.

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